

6535

THE SECOND EDITION.



FOUR PLEASANT EPISTLES,

Ec. Ec. Ec.

PRICE-HALF-A-CROWN.



[Entered at Stationers-Hall.]

THE SECOND EDITION

FOUR PLATES



PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD

THE SECOND EDITION.

FOUR PLEASANT EPISTLES,

WRITTEN FOR THE

ENTERTAINMENT AND GRATIFICATION

OF

FOUR UNPLEASANT CHARACTERS,

VIZ.

*A very EXALTED SUBJECT in his MAJESTY'S
DOMINIONS;*

The most UNPATRIOTIC MAN alive!!

The most ARTFUL MAN alive!!

AND

SECOND CHILDHOOD.

By A L B I O N. *lc*

— *Alas, poor country!*
Almost afraid to know itself!

SHAKSPERE.

London:

PRINTED FOR W. PRIEST, HOLBORN;
AND SOLD BY THE BOOKSELLERS IN STATIONERS COURT, LUDGATE STREET.
FATERNOSTER ROW. ROYAL EXCHANGE. FLEET STREET.
PICCADILLY. NEW BOND STREET, &c. &c.

M,DCC,LXXXIX.

THE SECOND EDITION

FOUR PLEASANT EPICLES

WRITTEN FOR THE

ENTERTAINMENT AND SATISFACTION

FOUR UNPLEASANT CHARACTERS

A NEW EDITION, WITH ADDITIONAL



Second Edition

Printed in London

By J. D. B. A. S.

London

Printed and Published by J. D. B. A. S. at the British Museum, London.

1800

T O

A very EXALTED SUBJECT *in his Majesty's*
Dominions.

*The blood weeps from my heart, when I do shape,
In forms imaginary, the unguided days,
And rotten times, that you shall look upon.*

SHAKSPERE.

S I R,

AS a loyal subject, I cannot but consider the recovery of our gracious Sovereign as a peculiar intercession of, and transcendent blessing from Providence—then how much additional pleasure must the nation at large experience, when it reflects upon a continuation of the same ministerial measures which have already raised us to a pinnacle of prosperity, compared with our situation a few years past, more elevated than the most flattering hope could give us a *prospectus* of :—more permanent than ages, under *even* able rulers, might have realized?

B

For

For these reasons, Sir, as I know you are partial to a set of would-be patriots, or whatever their interests please, am I happy that your government as sole Regent will be superseded.

You are, I am persuaded, totally unacquainted with the language of veracity, your elevated situation has debarred you from the sincerity of friends, and has adopted in its stead the adulation and falsity of courtiers—you, by being, until your present age, unacquainted with business, and having only received the shallow education adopted in the walks of splendour, are totally ignorant of the laws of the constitution you are born to govern; and discover in your acquaintance with the principles of monarchism, no more superficialness than continental thrones do countenance, but which your situation and reason are ashamed to acknowledge.

I am not, Sir, displeased with your follies as an young
man ;

man; I make every allowance for the ardour of the passions, and while I reprove you for the most unwarrantable actions as a man, I pass over your foibles as an youth. I neither look for the moroseness of a Diogenes, or the wisdom of a Seneca.

The first unconstitutional action you were guilty of, was your marriage with a Papist.

We are well acquainted with the melancholy consequences of Catholic vengeance; the reigns of Mary and James afford a bloody relief to the mildness of a George; disputed succession has stained repeatedly the annals of English history.

You actually married the object of your passion according to the Catholic form, and you have hereby entailed upon yourself and successors injuries that may make you an object of hatred as long as the English constitution exists. Your wife would not be your mistress, and therefore you became her dupe. You have
been

been fettered by a woman, too artful to be blasted in her designs by *your* penetration; too ambitious to consult her affections before the glitter of power, or the honour of sovereignty.

You are now deprived of your right of succession, and the only means you have of restoring yourself, is by pleading the violation of the royal marriage act, which passed in consequence of the degrading marriages of your foolish uncles: but this resource would be as — as your nuptial connection has proved the shallowness of your intellect. You have committed an absurdity, a violation of the laws of your country, and your only mode of extenuating for your offences is by resigning your pretensions to the —.

Your companions are the next object of my animadversion:—Your bosom friends are gamblers, your cheerful acquaintance are roaring drunkards—whilst your real friends are beggars, or despised for the openness

ness

ness of their language, or the frankness of their manners ; what proceeds from concern for your conduct, what involuntarily arises from bosoms overflowing with philanthropy, you confound with the tyranny of a pedagogue, or the officiousness of an impertinent, artful adviser.

Your political connections are composed of men of the most tyrannical, yet plausible principles ; at one time, inflamed with *lucrative* patriotism, they wage desperation with all order, and, under the mask of curtailing the prerogatives of the crown, aim a dagger at the vitals of the constitution ; under the pretence of being no man's enemy but their own, they attempt to overwhelm the good and over-awe the ignorant with the violence of their harangues :—their mouths froth with words, their hearts are poisoned with infamy ; as it suits their purpose, they declare the people to be the only judges of right and wrong ; that the crown should

C

have

have neither power or influence : or that the people are but the dregs of society, to be influenced by every puff of wind ; that democracy is but existing under the capriciousness of a licentious rabble ; that kings should invest themselves with the powers of royalty, without either considering the benefit or rights of their subjects ; that they need not wait for the corroboration of the people, but act from themselves, and with unprecedented tyranny.

How can you, with satisfaction to yourself, place any confidence in the broachers of such opposite dogmas ? If your opinions coincide with theirs at one period, you must be as fickle as a vane, to agree with them the next ; but I am rather inclined to consider you as their ostensible bulwark, while they are sapping the mines of the constitution to answer their purposes, as notorious as infamous. They consider your countenance as a cloak to their enormities ; and by making
you

you the automaton of their party, take credit to themselves for every thing apparently good, and oppress you with infamy for every thing actually bad.

Who, but yourself, would have conferred the most responsible appointments in your household on a culinary domestic? Who but yourself would have made him your intimate, confidential secretary? If the man had abilities, you might have raised him in your service; but as he was your sycophant, he had the art of becoming your governor. Had you paid more attention to the instructions of HURD, you probably might have been better acquainted with the Belle Lettres, been more respectable as a scholar, if you really wanted genius, and made the sciences your study, rather than the Art of Cookery: you might then have numbered with the learned, sought companions among the great, and made yourself their pattern, rather than their buffoon.

Another

Another glaring instance of—I don't know what to call it—inconsiderateness is the mildest term I can think of, is your countenance of that scourge of society Peter Pindar, a man unfortunately possessed of more genius than virtue; who, if he made general instead of individual reformation his object, might, by lashing the vices of the times, have become an useful member of society; but instead, hath dragged forth the foibles of men eminent for the excellency of their hearts, and with a two-edged sword almost rent them in twain; who, at the same time is more polluted with vanity, cowardice, and avarice, than any man breathing; who with all his asseverations of independence, is as open to bribery and corruption, and who has made himself the scourge of every place he has lived in, and has been universally, notwithstanding an involuntary admiration of his talents, considered as a plague sent on the world.

How

How much it aggravates your offence, when we consider that you are not harbouring a man who has satirized individuals, unknown to you, but you are making *him* your friend, who is your father's calumniator?

If there are any petty family differences between your father and you, and which, God knows, there is great cause for, how unbecoming your dignity is it, how unjustifiable as a man, considering your parent as once your friend, then how ——— does your conduct appear, to countenance your Sire's traducer?

I am inclined to think you have made the youthful days of Harry the Vth a model for yours—better had you marked the rising abilities of the Minister—better had you made him your companion, or even considered him as your rival: but even your model's career of libertinism was not marked by any of the follies you have been guilty of. 'Tis true, his associates were infamous, but at the same time it must be recollected,

D

that

that the contagion was confined to himself; that they were not political, but moral enemies.

In the very midst of his licentiousness he discovered a strong mind and virtuous heart—would to God we could trace similar qualities in your Royal Highness! When he ascended the throne, his companions were discarded; you, when nearly in possession of the summit of your hopes, made the common adherents of splendour—flatterers—your advisers, and before you were seated on the saddle, in embryo nominated ministers, bishops, &c. out of desperate gamblers and servile churchmen.

I am concerned I found it necessary to dwell so severely upon your conduct, a conduct replete with improprieties, absurdities, and vices. You have proved yourself, considered charitably, one of the weakest men that ever existed; for you have neither used discretion, consulted propriety, or been influenced by a glimmer of
reason,

reason. *You have been too much the associate of your idiot relation, now commonly called the Duke of Wisdom.*

I have not aggravated any one of your offences, I have not misrepresented any one of your actions; I have not been influenced by party motives, and as I scorn the servilities of a pander, I despise the wanton defamations of an assassin; and however truths brought home to you, may now disconcert your pleasures, I am inclined to think, you are not so hardened in folly, but the time may come when you will be open to conviction.

11
I have not been as much the subject of your
what religion, now commonly called the Bait of W.P.

I have not aggravated any one of your offences; I
have not misinterpreted any one of your actions; I
have not been influenced by party motives; and as I
from the services of a painter, I despise the wanton
denigrations of an artist; and however truths brought
home to you, may now disconcert your pleasures, I
am inclined to think, you are not so hardened in folly,
but the time may come when you will be open to con-

viction.

TO THE
Most UNPATRIOTIC MAN alive!!

*Animus audax, subdolus, varius, cujuslibet rei simulator ac dissimulator,
alieni appetens, sui profusus, ardens in cupiditatibus; satis loquentiæ,
sapientiæ parum.*

SALLUST.

YOU are, Sir, the chief of a three-headed Hydra, begat by Diffimulation on the daughter of Tyranny, nourished in contention, and matured in infamy.

You are, what is irksome to me to say, in treachery too innured, too old in viciousness to mend; my address does not exhort where there is not a probability

E

of

of reformation, but by exposing your errors, to stimulate the good to watchfulness; and as the buoy points out the shoal, so I mean to caution them against the rocks of deception.

Your first *entré* into public life, was in the character of a patriot, and had you preserved that character, you might have become an ornament to the nation you have now disgraced. The people's rights were then your perpetual theme, you have now none at all; for what is law with you one day, is mere moon-shine the next. In truth, how is it possible for any man to be tenacious of his principles, whose goddess is Fortune; who is as constantly the appendage of a gaming-table, as the lap-dog is of antiquated maidenhood? Your extravagance has been unbounded, your own estates have felt the urgency of your wants; and not content with impoverish-

ing

ing yourself, you have reduced half the young nobility in the kingdom from affluence to comparative penury. By ruining your patron, you have bound him down to your desires; and the resignation of a few thousands has procured a promise of honours.

As a politician, you declaimed with stentorian lungs against the American War, and all the measures of the North administration; you went in your epithets as far as decorum would permit, and in virulence toward the Minister himself, you exceeded what had ever been before heard, either in or out of the House.

Yet after a little time, with a confessorship salvo, you and the Minister were one. How you reconciled this coalition to decency, for conscience I believe you have none, was inexplicable to the whole country.

Still

Still patriotifm was apparently uppermoft in your thoughts, and the people's rights fhould not be violated as long as you had a tongue to defend them. Your election at Weftminfter was by this artifice fecured, and you commenced an adminiftration with the confidence and exultation of the people.

But you were unfortunate in not fufficiently hiding your real principles ; at the fummit of every moderate man's defires, you might have continued until the prefent moment the director of the public weal ; but rectitude is not to be preached to the infamous, or limits to be defined to the ambitious. You made one daring effort againft the charter of the India Company, and for want of your accuftomed cunning, which then feemed to have forfaken you, the rod which you had pickled for others recoiled upon yourfelf. During the fhort period of your power, you became as much the courtier

as

as you had before been the patriot ; but all would not do—your designs were seen through by a discerning Monarch ; and by an over-strained adulation, you frustrated yourself in the zenith of splendour.

Once more you became the friend of the people ; you railed against the unwarrantable prerogatives of the crown, and for nearly five years have you perpetually opposed the measures of a virtuous administration ; without regard to their salubrity or propriety have you declaimed against the wisest precautions ; without respect to reason or justice have you depreciated what you once would have been as forward to commend.

The late indisposition of his Majesty afforded you a pleasing prospect of cajoling the Prince, and again getting into power ; and then, Prerogative, the glorious Prerogatives of the crown you were anxious to preserve

F

against

against the perpetual and unwarrantable encroachments of the rabble !

That the Prince had a right, an inherent right to the Regency, without the concurrence or corroboration of either House of Parliament,—*a truly-pretty assertion for the MAN of the PEOPLE !*

How was it you lost sight of your accustomed precaution ? Was you so elated with your future prospects as to lose all recollection of your former self ? Afterwards, I must confess, on your being called upon for an explanation, you fritter'd away what you had asserted with some ingenuity, but the stale artifice would not do ; you have now openly avowed your principles, and 'tis hard if the people do not better by your instructions. Your faces, my friend Janus, which before looked north and south, alternately serving your purpose, have confronted each other, and d—d you
in

in the opinion of the world to all eternity. Like a second Catiline, history will record your actions as an uncommon instance of human depravity, and you will only be recollected to be despised.

By the precautions necessary to be taken before you came into power, the Regency Bill has been so long in agitation that there is a favourable prospect, by his Majesty's recovery, of the present servants of the crown continuing in office.

Providence, my good friend, seems in this instance to have interfered, with the view of discovering the imposition you were practising upon the credulity of the people; and I think if you ever again obtain their confidence, they deserve every thing your artifice and tyranny can put in practice.

Your logical and oratorical abilities from the first
missed

missed the nation : these qualities, I am sorry to say, you possess in a very eminent degree; and I cannot but consider it as an aggravation of your guilt your applying them to purposes so thoroughly mischievous; when, had you been content to rise by genius rather than chicanery, you, ere this time, would have enjoyed the love of your sovereign and the confidence of the people, possessed of an honourable opportunity of serving yourself and your friends more permanently and satisfactorily, than by the dishonest and precarious resource of a gaming-table.

As Catiline did, so have you, attempted to overturn all order and destroy all tranquility. When you read Sallust at school, I have no doubt the principles of his hero formed your future line of conduct in imagination, 'till you had the audacity of practising what at first you were only allowed silently to admire: but
with

with a second rebel came a second Cicero, who, like his predecessor, though he has not actually extirpated you out of the world, has sunk you into irrecoverable disgrace.

Sic vale vulpes!

PERFECTLY well convinced with what dis-
 respect you treat every thing that wears even the
 appearance of decency or virtue, I think myself excu-
 sed of any unwarrantable licence in addressing you with
 correspondent freedom.
 It is but within a few years since you first confided
 with the party in which you now make a distinguished
 figure; and I am sorry to say it is a doubtful point
 whether your abilities or vices bear away the palm.

TO
 G
 The

TO THE
Most ARTFUL MAN *alive!!*

*Immo verò homo levissimus, supplex inimicis, amicis contumeliosus, —
— levissimus senator, mercenarius
patronus, cujus nulla pars corporis à turpitudine vacat.*

S I R,

PERFECTLY well convinced with what disrespect you treat every thing that wears even the appearance of decency or virtue, I think myself excused of any unwarrantable licence in addressing you with correspondent freedom.

It is but within a few years since you first coalesced with the party in which you now make a distinguished figure; and I am sorry to say, it is a doubtful point, whether your abilities or vices bear away the palm.

I have heard it hinted that you are the author of

“ The

"The Letter to the most insolent Man alive,"* of course, as I know you to be, so I think myself warranted in addressing you, as the *most artful*.

In your private life, how can you reconcile the ardency of passion you once *exhibited*, for I consider it as a mere exhibition to the world, for an amiable Lady, and the cold neglect with which you now conduct yourself towards her? She deserved a better treatment, but she is not possessed of the affections of a man that is conscious of her virtues.

By your conduct to L——, you have involved an innocent family in ruin; and when he looks to you for redress, you are unacquainted with his pretensions to your patronage.

In self-defence you got into Parliament; and as you consider yourself secure from confinement, you continue

* The author might have given it a much more suitable Title, viz. *The most insolent Letter that ever was published, addressed to our excellent prime Minister!!*

nue to accumulate a debt you can never pay. Your house has been for a series of years the habitation of bailiffs ; to impose upon the world, they wear your liveries, and the wages of your servants, who are your masters, are paid by your creditors—an unprecedented instance of imposition—would it were narrated publicly and privately for the safety of the tradesman.

Like the head of your army, you draw your daily bread from Brookes's, and out of the mouths of *babes* and *sucklings* do you ordain strength.

In your political capacity, I must confess, you have astonished the world with the capaciousness of your powers, and the force of your eloquence ; had they been more confined and less pleasing, the danger of your principles would be comparatively insignificant. But what are we to expect from a combination of the
most

most splendid and solid abilities, with the most depraved heart!!!

Believe me, from *you* I do not apprehend all these evils, because I know you to be under the control of an ARGUS ; but if your execution were as unfettered as your will, the world would not bound your desires. As your chief has made Catiline his hero, so have you made Satan yours ; and as you once taught the heroes of Drury, so would you now emulate the —— gods themselves.

In your principles I acknowledge you have been uniform. Sir Robert Walpole used to say, "Every man has his price, if you will but come up to it:" so I believe have you ; but it would not be to the interest of a patriotic administration to seek your friendship, *your* character would injure theirs ; and while they have only

H

you.

you and your confederates to contend with, they have nothing to apprehend.

To be sure, you have the art of procrastination in an eminent degree ; 'tis your province to fight inch by inch, and, for the sake of contention, quirk and scrutinize every word ; but let you uninterruptedly talk to the walls of St. Stephen for a few hours, and you are as tame as a lap-dog.

How with propriety could you, whose conduct is so open to investigation, with all the imperiousness and inflexibility of Catonian virtue, drag the India Governor to justice ?

Did you think you could cover your own sins by assuming a false appearance of honour ? Did you suppose the world would be so blinded by a bare-faced deception as to consider H—— the victim of justice, rather than of unmerited persecution ?

You,

You, who with such animated and sympathetic language, described the sufferings of the princesses of Oude, only felt to be admired, only called for vengeance to impose upon the credulous.

You, who with such artful inuendos, laboured to entrap Mr. M——, confessed, at the moment, that he was an excellent pupil of your own chicanery.

You, who endeavoured to confront the C— J—— of H——, Sir E— himself acknowledged to be a paragon of impudence.

Surely, when you drew the character of Surface, you had an eye to your own *perfections*, or perhaps, constitutionally, you involuntarily delineated what we all know you to be so thoroughly master of.

Your learning does Old Parr credit ; but if we have a specimen of his morals in yours, the L— deliver him from the burthen of a mitre.

Your

Your advice at Carlton-House better had been spared. You have made the P— the tool of your designs; as a puppet you have spoken your sentiments on the Regency measures through his mouth; you have converted him to the meanest purposes, by making him your engine of abuse.

You have artfully in the House of Commons concealed your opinions, apparently taking no interest in the measures of Administration during the indisposition of his Majesty; yet, in secret, have you laid trains of gunpowder to destroy the most justifiable and wise regulations.

In the letter you wrote for the Prince, in answer to Mr. Pitt, you have played as artful a game as it is possible for human nature to be guilty of. You have cloathed your sentiments in such an ambiguity of expression as to nonplus the most sagacious politicians.

Nothing

Nothing done by the two Houses of Parliament can be a proper subject of his animadversion: how then, do you reconcile the number of abusive pamphlets you and your party are perpetually publishing, animadverting upon the proceedings of the House, and ministerial Junto, as you term them?

Surely you cannot be ignorant of the motive that induced his Majesty's Ministers to propose limitations and restrictions on the Regent? If you are, then learn the reason, and if you cannot understand it, I will repeat it over and over again to you,—the bad principles of his associates.

Where is the Prince? At Brooks's. And how accompanied? With Poins, and other his continual followers. Very little alteration will give an accurate diary of the Prince's life.

I

As

As to an extinction or suspension of the most important rights of the Crown under his government, was wise, for the less the power of him and his advisers, the better.

And with respect to the father, upon his recovery, being hurt at the curtailment of the power of his son, I flatly deny; his security he builds upon his own virtues, and he is too well acquainted with the principles of his son, to be juggled into a disgust of his ministers.

Though the Prince may have never shewn the smallest inclination to possess a power of disposing of his Majesty's property,—his companions may.

And so, after all his objections, he accepts the Regency merely for the good of his Majesty's subjects.—Poor young man, what a pity it is that his feelings should be so much hurt, and how very thankful ought we to be to him for doing us this kindness!—but how
much

much more obligated are we to you and your confederates for encumbering yourselves with a few snug thousands a year, which otherwise, as you *justly* observe, might be squandered away in paying off the national debt.

The restoration of our monarch will, however, blast your hopes, and counteract your designs for the present; and when the Heir Apparent, in the course of years may be called to the sovereignty, it is to be hoped you and your party's intrigues and real characters will be too manifest in his eyes for him to become the dupe of your machinations.

much more obligated to you and your country
debtors in exchange for your services with a few lines
thousands a year, which, otherwise, as you rightly
serve might be expended away in paying off the
national debt.

The restoration of our country will, however, still
your hopes and confidence in Congress for the future
sent; and when the time comes in the course of
you may be called to the front, it is to be hoped
you and your people will be able to stand with
be so manifest in the eyes of all to become the basis
of your nation.

TO

SECOND CHILDHOOD.

Quousque tandem abutere — patientia nostra?

CICERO.

SIR,

YOU, my good friend, have already become too much the prey of age, to be longer esteemed of any consequence to your Party. You are perpetually wandering in your orations from the beaten track, and with the wild and incoherent extravagancies of idiotism, endeavour to delude the Country Gentlemen of the House with *three skips of a louse* into admiration of your talents.

K

The

The time has been, when the Sublime and Beautiful marked your declamations, and placed you upon the pinnacle of fancy; the time is, that your fellow-members consider you as so much infected with the *cacoe-thes loquendi*, to little purpose, that it is better you do vent your spleen, and tire your lungs, before they attend to the matter of debate.

As to your conception, it is as dark as Erebus, your mind is perpetually wandering over classic ground, and you drain incessantly, without application, the Pierian stream: You have taken Horace's *monumentum ære perennius* for a brazen candlestick; *ridentem dicere verum*, has been your motto for a discourse as grave as a sermon; and I may truly say, when *parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus*.

Your treatise on the Sublime and Beautiful, may
probably

probably have turned your brain, for you seem to be often in the clouds, and generally in a storm.

In the trial of H——, which you demanded as the avenger of the innocent, you cut a despicable figure; your charges, like yourself, are in the mazes of perplexity; and you would do yourself credit, as well as your country justice, if you were to arrest the proceedings.

Poor old gentleman! I will have mercy on your politics; I will not unmercifully rake up the errors and faults you have been formerly guilty of; I will not make your old age ache with wounds it would be now cruelty to again rip open; but as old MACKLIN has retired from the stage, so would I recommend to you, though much younger in body, but more debilitated in mind, to retire from the profession of a Patriot or the vortices of public business.

probably have turned your back for you seem to be
often in the clouds, and generally in a storm.
In the trial of H—— which you demanded as the
avenger of the innocent, you put a despicable figure
your charges, like yourself, are in the traces of per-
plexity; and you would do yourself credit, as well as
your country justice if you were to arrest the pro-
ceedings.

Poor old gentleman! I will have mercy on your
politics; I will not ungenerally take up the errors and
faults you have been formerly guilty of; I will not
make your old age ache with wounds it would be now
easier to aggrandise open; but as old Macrin has
retired from the stage, I would I recommend to you
though much younger in body, but more debilitated
in mind, to retire from the profession of a Patriot or
the votary of public justice.

